

At an early day I issued a call for a meeting of teachers to take measures for our relief in this respect; and in that highly respectable assembly, and ever since, I have labored for the accomplishment of a purpose that is intended to secure not merely temporary and local, but general and lasting benefits.

Of course there was at first much confusion of ideas as to the best course to be pursued; and whatever plan was adopted, it was difficult to agree upon the means for its accomplishment.

My own fixed opinion was, that we should at once begin to write and to publish our own Text Books; and though there were many difficulties in the way, it clearly seemed to me that the very effort to meet and to overcome these, would, of itself, be of great advantage to us.

This bold plan was agreed on; but to ensure its success, it was necessary to find out who could and would write books worthy of use, on different subjects, to prevent, as far as possible, too much individual competition, and yet to keep the field open to all—to repress all local and sectarian jealousies, to foster one general sympathy among all classes of teachers, and to bring every moral appliance to bear in favor of books composed and published at home.

After much interchange of opinion, our teachers now seem to understand each other, while this whole subject has assumed its proper place in the public mind.

Some thought, at first, that the publication of books ought to be encouraged by a bounty from the State; others were of opinion that there should be some tribunal to decide on such manuscripts as should be printed; while nearly all were at first of opinion that foreign competition ought to be prevented by the action of our public authorities. It seemed to me that, with the moral appliances now in the hands of our teachers, the true course was different from any of these; and I am happy to believe that my views are now generally entertained.

We had a State Educational Association incorporated, and embracing in its membership teachers from nearly all the